

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (YOUTH)

REGULATIONS 2026/27 SEASON



1. THE COMPETITION

- 1.1 This Competition comprises the following age groups:
- Saturday:** Under 18, Under 17, Under 16, Under 15 - matches must be played Saturday and midweek.
- Sunday:** Under 18, Under 17, Under 16, Under 15 - matches must be played Sunday and midweek.
- 1.2 The Nottinghamshire Football League (Youth) is an England Football Accredited league, therefore any club / team wishing to participate in the Nottinghamshire Football League (Youth) must hold an up-to-date England Football Accreditation, clubs / teams who are not England Football Accredited will not be accepted into the Notts Youth Football League.
- 1.3 Any new teams wishing to join the Nottinghamshire Football League (Youth) who have not existed before their application date, who may not hold England Football Accreditation can still join on evidence that England Football Accreditation is in the process of being acquired, thereafter acceptance those said clubs / teams have a maximum of twelve months in which to acquire the Accreditation or be removed from the league.
- 1.4 Portraying your club or team as, and the use of the term or word "Academy", any club or team found to be doing so in their name, any hard copy literature, digital / social media, or vocally announced will not be accepted into the Nottinghamshire Football League (Youth), if already a member of the league will have their membership revoked immediately, until which time they can prove they are not promoting themselves in this way by whatever means.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

- 2.1 All club officials including all team managers must be registered on the Nottinghamshire Football League (Youth) CARP system (Communication and Registration Portal) fines will be issued for any officials not registered on the leagues system, in accordance with FA Rule 6 (H)
- 2.2 All correspondence will be sent to the named representative as shown in the leagues CARP system.
- 2.3 Clubs must update the league's online CARP system with any changes to club personnel registered with the league.

3. MEETINGS

League meetings shall be held bi-monthly at which each Club must be represented. Any Club not represented shall be fined a minimum of £20.00 plus a £5.00 administration fee.

4. FEES & PAYMENTS

- 4.1 Clubs will not be permitted to participate in this Competition until all entry fees have been paid in full.
- 4.2 Failure to pay any invoice by the due date will incur a £10.00 administration charge and the fine may be doubled (in accordance with the Fines Tariff). Clubs may be suspended from playing until payment has been received by the Treasurer.

5. PLAYERS

- 5.1 Players must be registered online via the FA Competition Portal
- 5.2 Players cannot register with a Team in this League:
- i) if they have not reached the age of 13 years before 1st September 2026 or have attained the age of 18 years before 1st September 2026.
 - ii) if they are registered at a Premiership Club Academy or Football League Club Academy.
 - iii) If they are registered at a Centre of Excellence unless the form is accompanied by a letter from the Director of the Centre of Excellence indicating that they are no longer registered at that Centre of Excellence.

(NB: if a player who is registered with a team in this League subsequently registers with a Premiership Club Academy, Football League Club Academy or Centre of Excellence, the club must inform the League of such in writing and request the removal of the player's registration to the Registrations Secretary.

- 5.3 A player having signed a registration form for his Club will not be allowed to register with another Club in this league that plays on the same day.
- 5.4 Players must not play for any team unless properly registered by the League and clearly identifiable on the team registration ID sheet downloaded from the FA's Competition Portal. Clubs who play any player who is not properly registered will be charged and dealt with in accordance with league rules.
- 5.5 Qualifying Dates:
- Under 18** - players must have attained the age of 15 by 31st August 2026 and must not be 18 years old before 1st September 2026
- Under 17** - players must have attained the age of 15 by 31st August 2026 and must not be 17 years old before 1st September 2026
- Under 16** - players must have attained the age of 14 by 31st August 2026 and must not be 16 years old before 1st September 2026
- Under 15** - players must have attained the age of 13 by 31st August 2026 and must not be 15 years old before 1st September 2026
- 5.6 Clubs must have a minimum of 11 players registered with each of their Teams by 20th July in each year, in readiness for the Playing season to commence as scheduled.
- 5.7 Player registration documentation produced from the FA's Competition Portal must be taken to every match and inspected by the officials of your opponent's prior to the start of the match, the rule is **NO PLAYER ID SHEET THEN NO GAME** this must also be readily available (at the side of the field of play) for inspection by any member of the Management Committee if requested.
- 5.8 Match day team sheets are compulsory, these must be completed and the top copy given to the referee 15 minutes before kick-off, the second copy should be completed on the final whistle and exchanged with your opponent's copy, failure to produce the third copy from your book, and the second copy from your opponents, if requested by any member of the league committee will result in a fine in accordance with FA Rule 6(H)
- 5.9 Players are registered with their clubs until **31st May** during which time they cannot be approached to join another club other than by following the procedure laid down by the Football Association (FA Rule C2).
- 5.10 In the event of a Club making an illegal approach to any player registered with another Club, the offending Club will be reported to the appropriate County Association.

- 5.11 Players are deemed to have played a match when they have been on the field of play either as a member of the original eleven players starting the match or as a substitute. A substitute player who has not been on the field of play is **not** deemed to have played a match.

6. MATCHES

- 6.1 All fixtures made by the League are binding and matches cannot be postponed without good reason. Clubs failing to play matches as scheduled without showing good and sufficient cause will be fined in accordance with League Rules – (see matrix in Regulation 6.6)
- 6.2 Clubs who are unable to provide dressing room accommodation must inform their opponents and any appointed officials when confirming the fixture prior to the actual match date.
- 6.3 Kick-off times

SATURDAYS					
	Sept	Oct	Nov/Dec/Jan/ Feb	Mar	Apr/May
League	3.00pm	2.15pm	2.00pm	2.30pm	3.00pm
Cup		1.30pm	1.15pm	1.30pm	

SUNDAYS	
	Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan/Feb/Mar/Apr/ May
League	10.30am (KO times may be amended - see notes below)
Cup	10.30am (KO times may be amended - see notes below)

Fixture Alterations: Any team wishing to amend any aspect of a fixture published in Full-Time, that being the kick-off time or venue, must first contact their opponents and any officially appointed league referee to obtain their agreement, this before contacting their Fixture Secretary with confirmation that all three parties agree to the requested amendment. If both the opponents and the officially appointed league referee agree, the fixture will be updated accordingly. If the opponents agree but the referee does not, the referee will be removed from the fixture, and the fixture will then be updated. No further league officials will be appointed to that match.

Any requested fixture amendments within 15 days of kick-off will have any league officially appointed referees removed from the fixture, no further league referee will be appointed.

- 6.4 Any change of ground from that stated in the League Directory must be notified to the relevant fixture secretary.
- 6.5 In the event that one team does not arrive at the ground in time for the advertised time of kick-off and there has been no communication to advise of their non-attendance, the opponents and referee must remain at the ground until half time following which the referee may declare the match as being postponed. The home club is responsible for paying the referee's fee and travel expenses in accordance with League Rules. The non-offending club must report, in writing, the non-attendance of the opponents to the General Secretary.
- 6.6 Any team postponing or failing to fulfil a fixture (for reasons other than pitch condition or player call-up to County Representative Squads) will incur a £5 administration fee and the following fixed penalties.

Instance	Notice Received	Admin Fee	Fine	Points Deducted
First	28 days or more prior to the fixture date	£5	£10	None
	14-27 days	£5	£15	None
	7-13 days	£5	£20	None
	3-6 days	£5	£25	None
	Less than 48 hours before kick-off	£5	£30	1
Second	28 days or more	£5	£20	1
	14-27 days	£5	£25	1
	7-13 days	£5	£30	1
	3-6 days	£5	£35	1
	Less than 48 hours before kick-off	£5	£40	2
Third	28 days or more	£5	£25	2
	14-27 days	£5	£30	2
	7-13 days	£5	£35	2
	3-6 days	£5	£40	2
	Less than 48 hours before kick-off	£5	£45	3
Further	28 days or more	£5	£30	3
	14-27 days	£5	£35	3
	7-13 days	£5	£40	3
	3-6 days	£5	£45	3
	Less than 48 hours before kick-off	£5	£50	3

In cases where the Management Committee feel that the circumstances merit it, the points may be awarded to the opponents as per League Rule 20(E)(i).

Clubs may include an evidenced plea for leniency or a response in mitigation with the fine payment. Any such plea will be considered by the Management Committee, who may decide to reduce the fixed penalty imposed.

Correspondence relating to the postponement of a fixture must be sent to the Fixture Secretary.

NB "Notice Received" relates to the date and time the postponement was notified to the Fixture Secretary.

- 6.7** Should any team fail to complete a minimum of 8 league fixtures by 1st January, a fine of £50 will be imposed upon the defaulting team.
Note; Weather conditions and the teams who are postponed upon during this period leading up to 1st January, will be taken into consideration.

7. REPORTING RESULTS

- 7.1** The result of the match must be reported by both teams to the Full-Time website on the day of the match by text message sent to the registered person. The home team and the away team must fully complete the match statistics, including scorers, referees mark, opponent's sportsmanship mark on the Full-Time website within 2 days of the match.

Failure to provide any of the above information for any league or cup match your club will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

8. REFEREES

- 8.1** Where the Referee's Secretary has been unable to appoint an official referee, the Secretaries of the two competing Teams must agree to a substitute referee. The Home Team does **not** have priority to appoint such a Referee. Should the Secretaries of the two competing Teams fail to appoint a referee, and the match does not take place, the Management Committee may take action at their discretion. When Clubs mutually appoint a referee the Referees Mutual Appointment Form must be completed, signed by a representative of each team, and submitted with your match report form.
- 8.2** Referees appointed by the Referee's Secretary take precedence over any referee appointed by Clubs.
- 8.3** Both Team Secretaries must give a mark in accordance with the Full-Time criteria for all officially appointed referee.'

9. UNFULFILLED FIXTURES

- 9.1** Any team failing to fulfill their fixture schedule will be fined in accordance with FA Rule 11 (B)
- 9.2** The Notts Youth Football League does not award matches or points for any unfulfilled fixtures, except for proven **FA** disciplinary cases where one team is proven to be at fault for any abandonment. For cases where both teams are proven to be at fault, unless the County FA imposes a ruling the outcome of the match will be decided upon by the league management committee.

10. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

League champions and Runners-up will be rewarded with commemorative plaques and ribboned medals for each player, these are free of any charges to the team or club, if the team being rewarded in this way fails to collect their medals, the club will be consequently invoiced for them.

11. DETERMINING DIVISION CHAMPIONS AND RUNNERS-UP

If teams complete the season's fixture schedule and finish level on points, the champions and runners-up will be decided by a single play-off match, the following conditions will apply.

- The match will be played at a neutral venue.
- Match officials will include an officially appointed referee and two assistant referees.
- Both participating teams will be invoiced for the full cost of the fixture; venue hire and officials fees shared equally between both participating teams.

FA RULE C2(a): REGULATIONS CONCERNING APPROACHES

Players who are not under written contract to a Club may be registered with a number of Clubs at any time, subject to the following provisions and those of the Competitions in which they play. *(See Notts Youth League Regulation 5.2)*

- (i) Competitions sanctioned by The Association under Regulation 3 of the 'Regulations for Sanction and Control of Leagues and Competitions' may make their own regulations for the approach of Players between Clubs of the Competition.
- (ii) During the current season, any Club wishing to approach a Player known to be registered with or having played for any other Club must give the Secretary of each such Club seven days' formal written notice of the intention to approach the Player.

Formal written notice of approach needs to be given by:

- (A) a Saturday Club only to all Saturday Clubs
- (B) a Sunday Club only to all Sunday Clubs
- (C) a Midweek Club only to all Midweek Clubs

(Note: a player can register with a Saturday Club and a Sunday Club and a Midweek Club)

- (iii) The written notice must be sent by Special Delivery or Recorded Post, or a written acknowledgment otherwise obtained from the Secretary or Chairman of the Club approached. Facsimile or e-mail transmission may be used provided a receipt of acknowledgement is also obtained.
- (iv) Following the date of posting of the written notice of approach, or receipt of an acknowledgement; (A) the Player may be registered on or after the eighth day; (B) the Player must have been registered on or before the 21st day.
- (v) The approaching Club: (A) may not approach the same Player a second time in the same season; (B) may approach only one (1) Player at a Club at any time subject to (ix) below; (C) may not approach another Player at the same Club within 28 days of an earlier notice of approach acknowledgement.
- (vi) If an approach is made by a Player to another Club during the current season, that Club shall give the Club(s), for which the Player is known to be registered or has played, seven days' notice of approach as set out in (i) to (iv) above before registering the Player.
- (vii) A Club which is subject to a complaint alleging failure to give notice in accordance with this Rule may be subject to a charge of misconduct under FA Rule E1(b).
- (viii) A Club proved to have breached the provisions of this Rule may have its current registration of the Player cancelled and be subject to such other penalty as The Association or Affiliated Association deems appropriate, in accordance with Regulation 8.1 of the Regulations for FA Disciplinary Action.
- (ix) During the current season a maximum of two Players may be approached in the manner described above if invited to trial at a licensed Football Association/FA Premier League/Football League Academy or Centre of Excellence.

Note: The 'current season' is deemed to be 1st July to 31st May inclusive, and Clubs must follow the above procedure during this period.